PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) A maximum limit of foreign matter including stones and other like material has been laid down in the standards of rice, sugar, paddy and spices under the PFA Rules, 1955. These are as follows;

(i) Rice – Not more than 3 percent by wt., out of which inorganic matter such as stone and other like material shall not exceed 1.0% by weight.

(ii) Sugar – Not more than 0.1% by weight.

(iii) Paddy – Not more than 6.0% by weight out of which inorganic matter such as stone and like material shall not exceed 1.0% by weight.

(iv) Spices – The maximum limit of foreign matter is in the range of 2.0% to 8.0% by weight depending on nature of each spice.

(b) and (c). Sale of food articles containing foreign matter exceeding the prescribed limit is a punishable offence under the provisions of PFA Act, 1954. The Food/Health Authorities of States/U.Ts. have been urged upon time and again to keep a strict vigil on quality of food stuff at manufactures/wholesalers and retailers levels.

Price of Molasses

4446. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a big difference in prices of Molasses in the regulated and in the open market as a result of which the cooperative sugar factories are incurring losses;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allow the sugar factories to dispose of their molasses in open market;

(c) if so, the time by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The prices of molasses are governed by Molasses Control Order, 1961. No cases of violations of the provisions of the Control Order have come to the notice of the Government in the recent past.

(b) and (c). Do not anse.

Small Industries in States

4447. KUMARI VIMLA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount proposed to be invested for establishing medium and large scale industries in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the current year and during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount proposed to be spent on setting up of small village industries in the State during th same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J KURIEN): (a) and (b). The Planning Commission provides Central assistance to the States in the form of block loans and grants to finance their Annual Plans which also includes allocation for industries. The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992–97) has not yet been finalised. However, in the Annual Plan of Madhya Pradesh for 1991–92 the Planning Commission have approved an outlay of Rs. 360.00 lakhs for medium and large industries and Rs. 5322.00 lakhs for village and small industries.